

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An elevator system comprising:
a hoistway defined by a surrounding structure;
an elevator car and counterweight located in the hoistway;
a machine, having a drive motor and a drive sheave, located between the elevator car and a sidewall of the hoistway, the drive motor drivingly coupling and suspending the elevator car and counterweight via the drive sheave and at least one flat rope, wherein the flat rope is made from a reinforceable traction material and the drive sheave, which has an axis of rotation parallel to the sidewall, is positioned from the drive motor along the sidewall and the axis of rotation;
first and second support columns located on opposite sides of the hoistway relative to each other, each of the support columns extending vertically from a bottom portion to a top portion of the hoistway between the elevator car and said sidewall of the hoistway, each of the support columns having a dimension in a direction from the sidewall toward the elevator car and perpendicular to the axis of rotation, the drive sheave having an outside dimension in the direction that is less than or equal to the support column dimension in the direction.
2. (Previously Presented) An elevator system as defined in claim 1,
comprising a support member mounted on and extending generally horizontally between the first and second support columns at a top portion of the hoistway, and wherein the drive motor is supported on the support member.
3. (Previously Presented) An elevator system as defined in claim 2, wherein the counterweight is located underneath the support member between the elevator car and said sidewall of the hoistway.

4. (Original) An elevator system as defined in claim 3, further including a counterweight sheave coupled to a top portion of the counterweight, and at least one elevator sheave coupled to an underside of the elevator car, the flat rope having first and second ends fixedly coupled at a top portion of the hoistway, the flat rope extending downwardly from the first end, looping about the counterweight sheave, extending upwardly and looping about the drive sheave, extending downwardly and underslinging the elevator car via the at least one elevator sheave, and extending upwardly and terminating at the second end.
5. (Original) An elevator system as defined in claim 4, wherein the at least one elevator sheave includes first and second elevator sheaves located at an underside of the elevator car and at opposite sides relative to each other.
6. (Original) An elevator system as defined in claim 4, wherein the first end of the flat rope is coupled to the support member.
7. (Original) An elevator system as defined in claim 2, wherein the counterweight is located underneath the support member between the elevator car and the sidewall of the hoistway, the flat rope has a first end coupled to a top portion of the counterweight and a second end coupled to the elevator car, the flat rope extending upwardly from its first end at the counterweight, looping about the drive sheave, and extending downwardly and terminating at its second end at the elevator car to form a 1:1 roping configuration.
8. (Original) An elevator system as defined in claim 2, wherein the first and second support columns respectively include first and second guide members, each of the guide members defining an elevator guide surface extending vertically therealong at least over a length of the support columns corresponding to the path of elevator car travel, and the elevator car defining opposing surfaces shaped to be movably engagable with the elevator guide surfaces as the elevator car moves vertically along the support columns.

9. (Original) An elevator system as defined in claim 8, wherein each of the first and second guide members further defines a counterweight guide surface extending vertically therealong at least over a length of the support columns corresponding to the path of counterweight travel, and the counterweight defines additional opposing surfaces shaped to be movably engagable with the counterweight guide surfaces as the counterweight moves vertically along the support columns.

10-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) An elevator system as defined in claim 2, wherein the counterweight is located underneath the support member between the elevator car and the sidewall of the hoistway, and including a counterweight sheave coupled to a top portion of the counterweight, at least one elevator sheave coupled to an underside of the elevator car, and the flat rope extends downwardly from its first end, loops about the counterweight sheave, extends upwardly and loops about the drive sheave, extends downwardly and underslings the elevator car via the at least one elevator sheave, and extends upwardly and terminates at its second end.

15-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) An elevator system as defined in claim 1, wherein the flat rope is reinforced with steel.

21. (Previously Presented) An elevator system as defined in claim 1, wherein the flat rope is reinforced with fiber.

22. (Previously Presented) An elevator system as defined in claim 1, wherein the traction material is urethane.

23. (Previously Presented) An elevator system as defined in claim 1, wherein the traction material is rubber.